



## **Backyard VBS 2024 Overview**

We are so excited you are considering hosting a backyard VBS! It is such an incredible way to share your faith with your community. It richly blessed us in past years and we are praying it will do the same for your community! Our hope with this document is that planning and hosting your own VBS will feel doable and not overwhelming. We WANT to be a resource and help you in anyway we can. [This article](#) from our church shares the heart, vision, and tangible things you can do make this happen!

**Remember**, a win for your VBS is for kids to have fun and learn about Jesus! For us, our goal is to have each child walk away from the week with the memory verse and the truth about God from each day. There is a LOT of information in this packet to \*hopefully\* give you as much help as we can. HOWEVER, if it feels overwhelming, adapt to what feels manageable for YOU! If you just had kids come play in your backyard, learn a memory verse, a truth about God, and sing some songs, that would be just as AMAZING!

**Theme:** God's Love

**Memory Verse:** "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

### **Lesson Outlines:**

\*There is a detailed typed out script for each lesson when you get to the daily lesson plans.

Day 1: Why does God love us? *He is love and He created us!*

**Scripture:** 1 John 4:8, Ephesians 2:10, Psalm 139

Day 2: When does God love us? *All the time!*

**Scripture:** Romans 8:37-39, Jeremiah 13:3, Psalm 136

Day 3: How does God love us? *By sending His son Jesus to die for our sins!*

**Scripture:** John 3:16, Romans 6:23

Day 4: How can we show others God's Love? *By serving and sharing the Gospel!*

**Scripture:** Mark 10:45, 1 Peter 4:10, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 1 John 4:19

## Sample Schedules:

*\*These are very rough schedules! Always be flexible and cut short times where you need to and do what works for your group!*

*No lunch, earlier start time option:*

9:00- 9:30: Checkin/Playtime (toys, bubbles, chalk, [coloring pages](#), hula hoops, etc.)  
9:30- 9:35: Introduction/Game/Hearty  
9:35- 9:40: Memory Verse/Hand Motions  
9:40- 9:45: Song 1  
9:45- 9:55: Teaching Part 1  
9:55- 10:00: Song 2  
10:00-10:05: Teaching Part 2  
10:05-10:10: Song 3  
10:10-10:15: Truth about God & Pray  
10:15-10:30: Snack/Storytime  
10:30- 10:45: Craft  
10:45- 11:00: Play/Leave (if doing lunch can do lunch during this time!)

*Lunch included, later start time option:*

*\*Inviting moms to join for lunch if they aren't already in attendance is a great way for them to connect with other moms!*

9:30- 9:50: Checkin/Playtime (toys, bubbles, chalk, [coloring pages](#), hula hoops, etc)  
9:50- 10:00: Introduction/ Memory Verse with Hand Motions  
10:00- 10:05: Song 1  
10:05- 10:15: Teaching Part 1  
10:15- 10:20: Song 2  
10:20- 10:25: Teaching Part 2  
10:25- 10:30: Song 3  
10:30- 10:45: Snack  
10:45- 10:55: Game (Led by skit character, Hearty)  
10:55- 11:05: Storytime  
11:05- 11:15: Truth about God & Pray  
11:15- 11:30: Craft  
11:30- 12:00: Lunch

## **Songs:**

*Links with hand motions*

Day 1:

[Super Wonderful](#)

[Our God is Love](#)

Jesus Loves Me (no hand motions, hold hands and sway)

Day 2:

[Our God is Love](#)

[Hosanna Rock](#)

[God's Love is All Around](#)

Day 3:

[Our God is Love](#)

[One, Two, Three](#)

[Never Be Shaken](#)

Day 4:

[Our God is Love](#)

[Go!](#)

How He Loves (no hand motions, circle up and sway)

[VBS Spotify Playlist With Teaching Songs](#)

[VBS Background Music](#)

## **Games:**

Probably bring Hearty out during this time! These can be played as a time filler to get kids back together after snack or during your talk time to get the wiggles out for kids!

Day 1:

**"If You Love Your Neighbor"**- Basically Simon says, but all the commands have you find a partner and do something with them. Ex: "if you love your neighbor... give them a high five, sit next to them, hug them, touch their head)

Day 2:

**"Follow God's Love"**- A love Congo line- draw a big heart on a stick and put it on a big stick. Have someone hold the heart and lead a congo line. Play music and dance around the yard.

Day 3:

**"Show Me What You Love"**- Basically categories. Have kids sit down and call out things they might like and have them stand up. Have them sit back down after each thing called. Ex: "stand up if you like chocolate ice cream" "stand up if chic fil a is your favorite restaurant"

Day 4:

**"Heart Hunt"**- Basically an Easter egg hunt but searching for "Gods love" instead. Hide little hearts around the yard (have a few other moms do this during the lesson) we are hiding these: <https://amzn.to/4aK0Usa>

## **Storytime Books:**

[Jesus Storybook Bible](#)

Day 1: [God's Great Love for You](#)

Day 2: [Nothing](#)

Day 3: [This is the Gospel](#)

Day 4: [Maybe I Can Love my Neighbor Too](#)

\*We have all these book available to borrow if you are doing yours a free week!

## **Truth about God:**

Call and respond- one person asks question, another holds up poster board with picture and yells response with kids. [Here is the link to all the symbols.](#)

Day 1: Why does God love us? Because he created us! (Paintbrush and paint)

Day 2: When does God love us? All the time! (Clock)

Day 3: How does God love us? By sending his son! (Cross)

Day 4: How do we show God's love? By sharing his love with others! (Heart)

## **Crafts:**

Day 1: [Mirror Craft](#)

Day 2: [Jesus Craft](#)

Day 3: [Romans Road](#)

Day 4: [Coloring Sheet](#)

\*These are all just suggestions! You do not have to purchase. Can come up with own craft too!

## **Prep Work**

### **Invitation**

[Here is the link to the editable flyer we created.](#)

Please make sure you make a copy before adding your own info! Simply fill in your information, screen shot the image, and text it out. We sent ours to our neighborhood moms group message and also posted on a neighborhood Facebook page. We additionally sent out personalized text to others we thought might be interested. We have also discussed potentially distributing flyers to neighbors mailboxes. Other ways you could make an invitation: upload our flyer into Canva and use text boxes to make your own edits, make your own invite in Canva or some other program, or just use a good ole fashioned text. Whatever is easiest on you!

### **Registration**

We've found that making a Google Sheet is a much easier way to consolidate headcount related information to be used for T-shirts, snacks, crafts, etc. I've included a link below. You can also just create an invite and send it via text message and ask for RSVP by E-vite or phone. Tracking does become a little trickier this way if you're sending the invite out to a large group of people.

[Link to Google Sheet](#)

\*If you would like to use the Google sheet, just MAKE SURE you make a copy before you edit or send out. You can add sections, take away sections, change wording, etc. when you do this. If you need help, ask Madison (or search on Google!)

### **Sign In**

Having a table setup outside of the backyard by the fence is helpful to corral the children that have already arrived. At check-in, have the parent sign their children in and make name tags.

To Purchase: Foldable table, Name Tags (or make some with the information provided on your google sheet ), Pens,

[Link to sign in sheet](#)

## **T-Shirts**

This year we are bulk ordering t-shirts through a printing company. If you'd like to join on the bulk order please send over sizing and quantity information to Madison Roberts (903-277-6162) by 5/10. Currently we have a quote for \$8 per shirt. You will be responsible for collecting money from your people to pay for your own shirts! You can also make T-shirts yourself. Last year we printed the image onto ironing paper and ironed them onto white T-shirts.

To Purchase ONLY if you are making your own: Hanes/Fruit of the Loom T-shirts on Amazon/Target/Walmart, T-shirt Ironing Paper, Printer Ink

## **Backdrop**

We create a backdrop with our design (on our invitation, t-shirt, and the coloring page for day 4 craft) that we hang somewhere in the backyard. The backdrop has already been claimed for 5/28-6/6, so our backdrop will be available to use if you'd like it outside of those dates. If you'd like to create your own, use a projector to trace the image onto a full sized sheet. Then use paint to fill in the outline (be aware that the paint will leak through, so it might be helpful to put a tarp or some other sort of barrier underneath). You can also reach out to Madison if you would like to find a time to use her projector.

To Purchase: King Sized Sheet, Acrylic Paint, Paintbrushes

## **Snacks**

Having a few snack options for kids is helpful. We found goldfish, applesauce pouches, and animal crackers to be sufficient. Parents are also welcome to bring their own snacks for their kids if they'd like.

## **Skit Character**

This year we're planning on purchasing a blow up heart costume for one of the volunteers to wear. We're naming the character "Hearty" and she will be involved throughout the week (Hearty says, Congo line led by Hearty, skits, etc.). Similar to the Backdrop, if you'd like to borrow this outside of the window of our own VBS it is available, otherwise you can purchase your own. You could also make your own version of "hearty" by having a big red heart made out of poster board on a string that they wear around their neck with other heart shaped accessories.

[Link to Hearty on Ali Express](#)

### **“Surprise and Delight”:**

One thing we did on the last day was have a fun surprise! We had an ice cream truck but you could go as simple as popsicles! This year, we are doing snocones from Kona Ice. Just something fun to celebrate with on the last day! Some people also choose to have a “water day”, especially for later in the summer. Kids come in swimsuits with towels and change of clothes. You could do anything from water balloons, sprinklers, water tables, inflatable pools, bounce house water slides, or just play with the water hose! Anything water is fun!

### **Truth about God:**

[Here is the link to the symbols and coloring pages for each day.](#)

We will have a poster board for each “symbol” to remind us of the truth about God we learned from that day. These can just be hand drawn or a very basic picture printed and glued on poster board. We will also have a coloring page of each symbol for kids to color each day as they are arriving.

### **Our Designer:**

We would be remiss if we did not give full credit to our logo designer Mrs Elizabeth Tamlyn!! She has a passion for helping children memorizing scripture and has created picture books to help kids write God’s word on their hearts. We purchased a few of her books to giveaway as a “raffle” last year and they were a HUGE hit! Checkout her website! [www.kids scripture.com](http://www.kids scripture.com)

## Daily Lesson Plans

### **Day 1:** Why Does God Love us?

**Intro:** FRIENDS!! Welcome to Backyard VBS Summer 2024!! I am just so so excited that you all are here and can't wait to jump into all the things we are going to learn this week. First, I want to share the theme of our VBS this year! Can I get a drum roll? This week we are going to be learning alllll about: **GOD'S LOVE!** Woohoo! We are going to be asking 4 questions about God's love, and getting 4 answers about God's Love from the Bible! The four questions are going to be this:

1. Why does God love us?
2. When does God love us?
3. How does God love us?
4. How can we show others God's Love?

But before we get into God's love, I'd love to share some of the things that iiii love! I love SUMMER. I love my FAMILY. I love my FRIENDS (that's all of you). I love WATERMARK (the church we go to). I love the color PURPLE. I love CHIPS and SALSA. I love CHOCOLATE CHIPS COOKIES. So those are some of the things that I love, and now I'd love to hear some of the things that YOU love! We are going to play a game called stand up if you love \_\_\_\_\_. Stand up if you love: summer, ice cream, bubbles, toys, reading, eating \_\_\_\_\_, etc.

Awesome! Well now that we've learned a little bit about what each of us love, now let's learn about what God Loves! To learn about His love we are going to be memorizing a bible verse. Romans 5:8! Before we work on this verse, I want to invite a special friend out who is going to help us this week! Are you ready to meet her? Her name is **HEARTY!** Hearty come on out! Hearty what are some things you love? The color red? Chick fil a? Reading God's word? Awesome! Well you'll be perfect to help us work on our memory verse this week! Everybody standup!

**"But God** (point up) **demonstrates his own love** (hands over heart one at a time) **for us in this: While we were still sinners** (thumbs down one at a time) **Christ died for us.** (Cross with arms). **Romans 5:8**

(Go thru verse and motions a couple times slowly)

Great job!! We will be working on that all week so make sure you are practicing at home too! Now that we are standing, let's sing a song! Hearty do you want to stay and dance with us? Great!



## **Song 1: Super Wonderful by Yancy**

### **Teaching Part 1:**

(Hearty leaves) So the first question we are looking at this week is WHY does God love us? This is actually a very hard question because we are not easy people to love! *We think, say and do things that do not please God all the time.* Does anyone remember what that's called? Sin! That's right. So let's see what the Bible has to say about why He loves us. (Turn Bible to 1 John 4:8) 1 John 4:8 gives us a really simple answer that tells us "God is love". Woah! Can you repeat that after me? "God is love!" Man, we could easily memorize this verse too! So God doesn't just love us, He IS love! He can't help but love us because it's just who He is. And this love is very different from the love we have for pizza or our favorite toy, this love is bigger than we could ever imagine! Look at this verse explaining God's Love (open bible to Ephesians 3:18) it tells us God's love is so wide and long and high and deep! He loves us just SO much because he IS love!

Okay guys, now I want to introduce you to what is going to be our THEME song for Backyard VBS 2024!! It is going to require a lot of dancing and singing. Are you ready for it? Follow me for motions! Hearty do you want to come back out and dance with us??

## **Song 2: Our God is Love by The Worship Initiative/Shane & Shane**

### **Teaching Part 2:**

(Hearty leaves) So we're talking about **Why does God love us?** We just learned because He IS love from 1 John 4:8. Another reason is that He CREATED us! He made every single thing about us. He made Landry to have strawberry blonde hair, he made Lincoln to have brown eyes, He made Turner able to run fast, etc. (call out qualities in kids). He knows everything we are thinking and saying and doing. He loves us because He created us and He knows us. I want you to think about coloring a picture or building a big castle of blocks. When you are finished you hang it up on the fridge or show mommy and daddy how good you did because you are so proud of it! God is the same way. He is so proud of what He has created and loves the work of His hands. Do you know what the Bible calls us? Ephesians 2:10 says we are His MASTERPIECE! We are the most beautiful picture he has ever drawn and painted.

So what have we learned today. **Why does God love us? God IS love and he CREATED us.** Let's repeat that again! Tomorrow we will look at the next question: **When does God love us?**

Let's say a prayer thanking God for loving us and sing one last song.

### **Song 3: Jesus Loves Me by Cedarmont Kids**

**Snack-time** (can combine with story time)

**Game:** *If You Love Your Neighbor*

**Story time:** "The beginning: a perfect home" by Jesus Story Book Bible (just the part about creating Adam and Eve) & "God's Great Love for You" by Rick Warren

#### **Truth about God:**

\*You will need poster of symbol for the day. Today's symbol: paintbrush and paint pallet

"Let's remember what we learned today by learning a truth about God!"

*Person 1:* Why does God love us?

*Person 2 (holding poster, responding with kids):* He created us!

**Craft:** Mirror Craft

## Day 2: When does God love us?

**Intro:** Welcome back! It's so good to see everyone again! Did you guys have fun yesterday? Good! Well, get ready to have even more fun today! First, I'd love to review a little of what we learned yesterday. Does anyone know the theme of our VBS this summer? God's LOVE! That's right! And what did we learn about God's love yesterday? **Why does He love us?** *God IS love and He CREATED us!* Good Job! We also started to work on our memory verse for the week. Before we get to reviewing that, I'd love to bring back out my friend HEARTY! Hearty can you help us practice our memory verse? Awesome!

**"But God** (point up) **demonstrates his own love** (hands over heart one at a time) **for us in this: While we were still sinners** (thumbs down one at a time) **Christ died for us.** (Cross with arms). **Romans 5:8**

Great Job everybody! Now it's time to sing our Theme song!!

### **Song 1: Our God is Love by The Worship Initiative/Shane & Shane**

#### **Teaching Part 1:**

Great job singing! So today we are looking at the second question and that is this: **WHEN does God love us?** This questions is a little bit easier to answer. Are you ready for it? **ALL THE TIME!!** Can you say that with me? **ALL THE TIME!!** That's right!! God truly loves us all the time. He loves us yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He loved us when we were a tiny itty bitty baby in our mommy's bellies and He will love us when we are 100 years old like your grandparents! (Lol) There are so many verses in the Bible that talk about how God loves us all the time. Let's look at a few of them: (read these verses in your bible)

**"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:37-39.** This verse tells that NOTHING can ever separate us from God's love. He will always love us no matter what happens in our life. Isn't that awesome??

**"The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." Jeremiah 13:3.** EVERLASTING and UNFAILING. God's love for us lasts forever and it will never fail us.

And lastly, one of my favorite reminders that God loves us all the time...

**“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.” Psalm 136:1.** His love endures FOREVER. If you read all of Psalm 136, it tells us that God’s love endures forever 26 times!! Wow! God must really want us to remember that He loves us always!

Let’s sing a song and learn more!

## **Song 2: Hosanna Rock by Yancy**

### **Teaching Part 2:**

So now that we know that God loves us all the time. Let’s talk about some things that might make us feel like God loves us less, or even that God loves us more. We talked a little bit about sin yesterday. Does anyone remember what sin is? *Sin is anything we think, say or do that does not please God.* The bible tells us that everyone is a sinner. We all fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23). We do things all the time that do not please God. Like not sharing our toys with our siblings or friends. Or whining and complaining when mommy says no we can’t have ice cream. Or disobeying our parents or teachers when they tell us to do something and we don’t do it. Those are all examples of sin. But you know what’s crazy? EVEN when we sin, God still loves us! His love for us doesn’t change even when we do bad things. How is that even possible? Well come back tomorrow and find out about His son Jesus! ;) but Okay now let’s talk about feeling like God loves us more. When I was a child I used to think that if I went to church more or read my bible more or was a better person who didn’t sin that God would love me more. But you know what? The Bible doesn’t say that anywhere! God doesn’t love us any more when we do good things because He already loves us so much! That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t do those things like going to church and reading our bibles because they’re great things, but we shouldn’t do them because we think it will make God love us more. Like the verses we read above, His love never changes. He loves us ALL THE TIME! **When does God love us? ALL THE TIME!**

Alright let’s pray, sing a song, and get a snack!

## **Song 3: God’s Love is all Around by Good News Guys**

**Snack-time** (can combine with story time)

**Game:** Follow God’s Love

**Story time:** “Running Away” in Jesus Storybook Bible (the prodigal Son story) &/or “Nothing” by Natalie Creech

**Truth about God:**

\*You will need poster of symbol for the day. Today's symbol: Clock

"Let's remember what we learned today by learning a truth about God!"

*Person 1:* When does God love us?

*Person 2 (holding poster, responding with kids):* All the time!

"Can you guys remember the other truths we've learned? Let's try!" (Say other truths while holding up posters or pointing to them if you have them hung up somewhere)

**Craft:** Jesus Loves

### **Day 3:** How does God love us?

**Intro:** Welcome back to another fun day of Backyard VBS! Let's review what we've learned so far! **1) Why does God love us?** *He IS love and He created us!* **2) When does God love us?** *All the time!* Great job! Let's bring out Hearty to practice our memory verse!

**"But God** (point up) **demonstrates his own love** (hands over heart one at a time) **for us in this: While we were still sinners** (thumbs down one at a time) **Christ died for us.** (Cross with arms). **Romans 5:8**

Great Job! Now let's sing our theme song with Hearty! (Conga line around backyard to this song? "Follow God's love game")

### **Song 1: This is Love by Shane and Shane**

#### **Teaching Part 1:**

Okay today we are going to ask probably the most important question we will learn this week: **HOW does God love us?** How did God show us His love? How do we know that God loves us? Well. He did something very very amazing. I want to read a verse from the Bible that explains this really well.

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16**

Friends, God loves us sooo much but we have a problem. We are sinners! We think, say and do things that do not please God. And God is a perfect and Holy God, and He can't be near sin. So He sent His Son Jesus to come to earth and take the punishment that our sins deserve. Do you remember what that punishment was? Dying on the cross! That's right! And separation from God His father! But did he stay dead and separated? No! He rose back to life after 3 days showing that He has defeated sin and death and that we can be with Him forever if we believe that Jesus did this. THAT'S how He showed us His love. THAT'S how we can know that He loves us. Just like our memory verse says: "God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." So to answer the question: **How does God love us?** *He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins!* Let's sing a song praising Him!

### **Song 2: 1,2,3 Jesus is Alive by Yancy**

## **Teaching Part 2:**

Acting out the Bridge Illustration! The video example is below. I will probably use Hearty instead of kid volunteers (not sure they can be trusted lol)

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.youtube.com/watch%3Fv%3D6Pv0xpG8t2k&ved=2ahUKEwjFyNCu6biFAxUb48kDHaliDawQtwJ6BAgOEAI&usg=AOvVaw31QZCbM9hmbD6awKdz9YAT>

## **Other Gospel illustration ideas:**

-draw out Bridge Illustration on poster board

-Food coloring/bleach demonstration

<https://www.letthelittlechildrencome.com/child-evangelism-resources/share-the-gospel-with-children-cleansing-power-of-jesus/>

-watch a video on laptop

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.youtube.com/watch%3Fv%3D\\_-ABObGtpv8&ved=2ahUKEwjFyNCu6biFAxUb48kDHaliDawQtwJ6BAgTEAI&usg=AOvVaw12RMzzG\\_Qtor1vLVF7TqfU](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.youtube.com/watch%3Fv%3D_-ABObGtpv8&ved=2ahUKEwjFyNCu6biFAxUb48kDHaliDawQtwJ6BAgTEAI&usg=AOvVaw12RMzzG_Qtor1vLVF7TqfU)

Let's pray and sing one last song!

## **Song 3: Never Be Shaken by Shout Praises Kids**

**Snack-time** (can combine with story time)

**Game:** Show Me What you Love

**Story time:** "This is the Gospel" by She Reads Truth

## **Truth about God:**

\*You will need poster of symbol for the day. Today's symbol: cross

"Let's remember what we learned today by learning a truth about God!"

*Person 1:* How does God love us?

*Person 2 (holding poster, responding with kids):* By sending his Son!

"Can you guys remember the other truths we've learned? Let's try!" (Say other truths while holding up posters or pointing to them if you have them hung up somewhere)

**Craft:** Romans Road

## Day 4: How do we show God's love?

**Intro:** Can y'all believe this is our last day of VBS?! I am actually so sad!! We have just one more question to answer about God's Love! Let's review the other 3 questions first and see if you remember the answers. 1) **Why does God love us?** *He is love and He created us!* 2) **When does God love us?** *All the time!* 3) **How does God love us?** *By sending His son Jesus to die for our sins!* So now that we know a lot about God's love the final question is this: **How can we show others God's love?** We will get to that answer in just a second but first lets greet our friend Hearty just one more time!! Hearty can you help us with the memory verse one last time! Let's see if we can have any friends come up to the front and say it all by themselves!

**"But God** (point up) **demonstrates his own love** (hands over heart one at a time) **for us in this: While we were still sinners** (thumbs down one at a time) **Christ died for us.** (Cross with arms). **Romans 5:8**

(Can give out little heart stickers to kids who know their verse)

Let's sing our theme song one last time!

### Song 1: Our God is Love

#### Teaching Part 1:

So our final question is **How can we show others God's love?** This can be a simple question to answer, but much harder to do!! There are really 2 ways we can show God's love: **1) Serving & 2) Sharing the Gospel.** Let's talk about the first one! Serving means loving others with our actions. This could be being kind to our brother or sister, playing on the playground with a new friend at school, helping someone up when they fall down, sharing our toys even when we don't want to or helping mom by cleaning our room! These are all examples of how to show love. When Jesus came to earth he loved people by serving them and doing things for them. Anything from washing their feet, to healing their sickness, to telling them they were loved. He was always loving people with his words and actions. Let's look in the Bible at a few places where he encourages us to serve!

**"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."** **Mark 10:45.** So even Jesus, the King of Kings, Ruler of all, did not come to have others do nice things for him, but he came to earth do nice things for others.

**Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10.** This verse tells us that we even



have special serving gifts that God has given us to use! Maybe God has given you the gift of coloring and you could color a picture for your neighbor who is sick. Maybe God has given you the gift of helping mom bake and you could help her bake cookies for your teacher! Maybe God has given you the gift of being funny and you make people smile and laugh! Whatever it is, this verse tells us to use our gifts to serve others.

Okay one more..

**“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.** God gave us such great examples here of how we can serve one another with love.

Let's sing a song and learn another way to show God's love!

### **Song 2: Go! By Yancy**

#### **Teaching Part 2:**

So the 2nd way that we can show others God's love is by **sharing the Gospel with others**. This is the story of Jesus that we learned yesterday!! Sharing the good news that Jesus died for our sins so that we could spend forever with God in Heaven. Maybe your neighbor or your friend or your family needs to hear that good news and you can be the one to share that with them!

Friends, I want to leave you with one last verse of why we love. It's **1 John 4:19: “We love because He first loved us.”** That's why we learned about how God loves us first before we learned how to love others. We can't do anything without knowing just how much God loves each one of us. Why he loves us, when he loves us and how he loves us. Then we can love others. Let's sing one last song together!

### **Song 3: How He Loves by The Worship Initiative/Shane & Shane**

**Snack-time** (can combine with story time)

**Game:** Heart Hunt

**Story-time:** “Maybe I can Love my Neighbor Too” by Jennifer Grant

**Truth about God:**

\*You will need poster of symbol for the day. Today's symbol: heart

"Let's remember what we learned today by learning a truth about God!"

*Person 1:* How do we share God's love?

*Person 2 (holding poster, responding with kids):* By loving others!

"Can you guys remember the other truths we've learned? Let's try!" (Say other truths while holding up posters or pointing to them if you have them hung up somewhere)

**Craft:** Postcard for a friend- color the vbs theme verse page (attached below) to give or send to a friend!